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OFFICE OF RIVER PROTECTION ISSUES DRAFT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR NEW VITRIFICATION PROJECT CONTRACTOR

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), through its Office of River Protection, today issued a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking review and comment from potential bidders to design and construct a treatment and immobilization plant for Hanford tank waste.

This draft RFP is the next step on the path to selecting a contractor to replace BNFL Inc. for design and construction of the treatment and immobilization plant. On May 8, Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson rejected BNFL's proposal to build the plant.

The department is conducting a streamlined solicitation process and providing an open competition in order to meet the Energy Department's management commitments to the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Under this streamlined process, the department plans to issue the formal RFP by the end of August.

On May 23, 2000, DOE issued a Commerce Business Daily (CBD) announcement seeking expressions of interest. Subsequently, the department engaged in an information exchange with industry through a Pre-Solicitation Conference in Richland, Washington, on June 7, 2000, and a series of one-on-one meetings with industry representatives in Washington, D.C. during the period of June 14-16, 2000. Based on these industry information exchanges and the department's assessment of its acquisition needs, the department has selected an acquisition strategy that will result in the selection of a single design/construction management contractor to design, construct, and commission the waste treatment and immobilization plant.

The department actively seeks questions and comments from interested bidders on this draft solicitation. Please submit questions and comments by August 14, 2000, via E-mail to Michael K. Barrett, Contracting Officer, at Michael_K_Barrett@rl.gov.

The official solicitation web site for this acquisition can be found at <http://www.hanford.gov/orpext/content.cfm?sn=102&parent=966&pageid=1228>. This web site will be the sole distribution medium for the solicitation and will be used to provide acquisition information,

including project background, the project acquisition plan, solicitation, and amendments or clarifications, questions and answers, and other related information. Interested bidders are strongly encouraged to check this web site frequently for new information.

Note: The Office of River Protection manages the day-to-day operation of the nation's largest and most complex environmental cleanup project-retrieval and treatment of tank waste at the Hanford Site. More background information on the Office of River Protection can be found on the office's web site at: <http://www.hanford.gov/orp/>.

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